

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A camera comprising a strobe for supplying light to a scene, the strobe flashing  
2 repeatedly during composition of a photograph.
2. The camera of claim 1 further comprising a preview mode wherein the strobe  
2 flashes repeatedly.
3. The camera of claim 2 further comprising a user control by which the user selects  
2 the preview mode.
4. The camera of claim 3 wherein:
  - 2 a) in response to a first setting of the user control, the strobe flashes repeatedly  
during the composition of a photograph; and
  - 4 b) in response to a second setting of the user control, the strobe does not flash  
during the composition of a photograph.
5. The camera of claim 1 further comprising:
  - 2 a) a light sensor, and
  - b) comparison means for comparing a light level measured with the light sensor  
4 to a threshold value, and wherein  
the camera enables strobe flashes during composition of a photograph when the  
6 light level is below the threshold value, and disables the strobe flashes during  
composition of a photograph when the light level is above the threshold value.

6. The camera of claim 1 further comprising strobe electronics for driving the strobe,  
2 the strobe electronics having an energy storage capacity, each strobe flash during  
composition of a photograph dissipating less than all of the energy stored in the strobe  
4 electronics.

7. The camera of claim 6 wherein the amount of strobe energy dissipated for one  
2 strobe flash is different from the amount of strobe energy dissipated for another strobe  
flash.

8. The camera of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 a) an electronic array light sensor; and  
b) a logic unit that controls the electronic array light sensor and receives image  
4 data from the electronic array light sensor; and  
c) a display that displays an image under control of the logic unit;  
6 wherein the camera takes and displays preview photographs repeatedly on the display  
during composition of a final photograph by the user, and wherein the camera flashes  
8 the strobe once for each preview image.

9. The camera of claim 8 wherein the camera flashes the strobe more often than once  
2 for each preview image.

10. The camera of claim 9 wherein at least one of the preview images may use a  
2 different number strobe flashes than another preview image.

11. A method of controlling a camera comprising flashing a strobe repeatedly during  
2 composition of a photograph.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising the steps of:  
2 a) detecting a user control; and  
b) entering a preview mode in response to the detecting step.

13. The method of claim 12 further comprising the steps of:  
2 a) exiting the preview mode; and  
b) suspending the repeated flashes of the strobe.

14. The method of claim 12 further comprising:  
2 a) in response to a first setting of the user control, entering the preview mode and  
flashing the strobe repeatedly during composition of a photograph; and  
4 b) in response to a second setting of the user control, entering the preview mode  
without flashing the strobe.

15. The method of claim 11 further comprising using a preview photograph taken  
2 during composition of a final photograph in determining the proper strobe energy to  
use in taking the final photograph.

16. The method of claim 11 further comprising dissipating less than all of an energy  
2 storage capacity of strobe electronics with each flash of the strobe during composition  
of a photograph.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the amount of strobe energy dissipated for one  
2 strobe flash is different from the amount of strobe energy dissipated for another strobe  
flash.

18. The method of claim 11 further comprising the steps of.  
2 a) measuring the scene lighting level using a light sensor; and  
b) comparing the scene lighting level with a threshold value; and  
4 c) enabling the strobe flashes during composition of a photograph when the  
scene lighting level is below the threshold value and disabling the strobe  
6 flashes during composition when the scene lighting level is above the  
threshold value.

19. A camera comprising:  
2 a) strobe means for supplying light to a scene; and  
b) electronics means for driving the strobe; and  
4 c) logic means for controlling the strobe and electronics means, wherein the logic  
means flashes the strobe repeatedly during composition of a photograph by a  
6 user of the camera.